

REMARKS

Drawing Changes

Applicant has added number designation 165 to Figure 7. No new matter has been added. Applicant requests the drawing changes be accepted.

Amendment to the Specification

Applicant has amended the specification to identify features shown by Figure 7. No new matter has been added. Applicant requests the Amendment to the specification be accepted by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections

Claims 10 and 19 were examined. The Examiner rejected Claims 10 and 19 pursuant to 35 USC Section 102(b) and, in the alternative, pursuant to 35 USC Section 103(a). Applicant has amended Claims 10 and 19 and added new Claims 23-26. For the reasons stated below, Applicant requests allowance of Claims 10, 19 and 23-26.

With respect to Claim 10, this claim has been amended to add the limitation, “wherein both said first body and said second body are in contact with said first mating connector.” Neither Auer (US 4,557,091) nor Anderson et al. (US 4,437,285) teach this feature either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Claim 10 and its dependents, Claims 23-25, stand in condition for allowance.

With respect to dependent Claim 23, this claim requires the limitation, “wherein said first body is pressed against said second body to form said first snap-fit connector.” This feature is not shown by the cited references, either alone or taken together. For this additional reason, Claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claim 24 states "wherein said first body has a first flexible portion and said second body has a second flexible portion, said first flexible portion and said second flexible portion both engageable to said first mating connector." This claim is allowable over the cited references.

Dependent Claim 25 requires "said first body and said second body define at least a portion of a receiving cavity for receiving said first mating connector." This claim is allowable over the cited references because of this limitation.

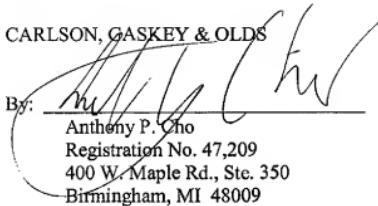
Independent Claim 19 has been amended to require "wherein said first body and said second body flexibly engage said first mating connector." This feature is not taught by the cited references, alone or taken together. Claim 19 is thus allowable.

Finally, independent Claim 26 has been added and requires in pertinent part, "wherein said first body and said second body flexibly engage said first mating connector." This feature is novel over the cited references. Therefore, Claim 26 is in condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicant requests allowance of Claims 10, 19 and 23-26.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 14, 2009
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